Chapter 10: Kirishima-kun's Reason

...AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

I ENDED UP FALLING IN LOVE WITH THAT WEIRD WOMAN...

...

I'M LISTENIN'.

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING ?!

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE LISTENING AT ALL!

TAP TAP

BUT I MEAN...

I MEAN... IT'S SURPRISING, RIGHT?

BUT WELL, A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED.

So dumb...

NO SHIT YA FELL FOR HER. IT'D BE STRANGER IF YA DIDN'T AFTER ALL THAT.

YA REFUSED TO DIVORCE HER, THEN MOVED IN AND STARTED LIVIN' TOGETHER ...

UGHH...

OBJECTION!

I'VE KNOWN 'BOUT THAT FOR A WHILE.

Hmph!

WELL...

SO? HOW DID AI-CHAN REACT TO THAT?

HUH...?

You pretty much confessed to her...

ANYWAY, IT'S TIME TO SLEEP!

HUH?!

GOOD NIGHT!

HUH?

WHAT?!

POMF

...

SILENCE...

UMM...

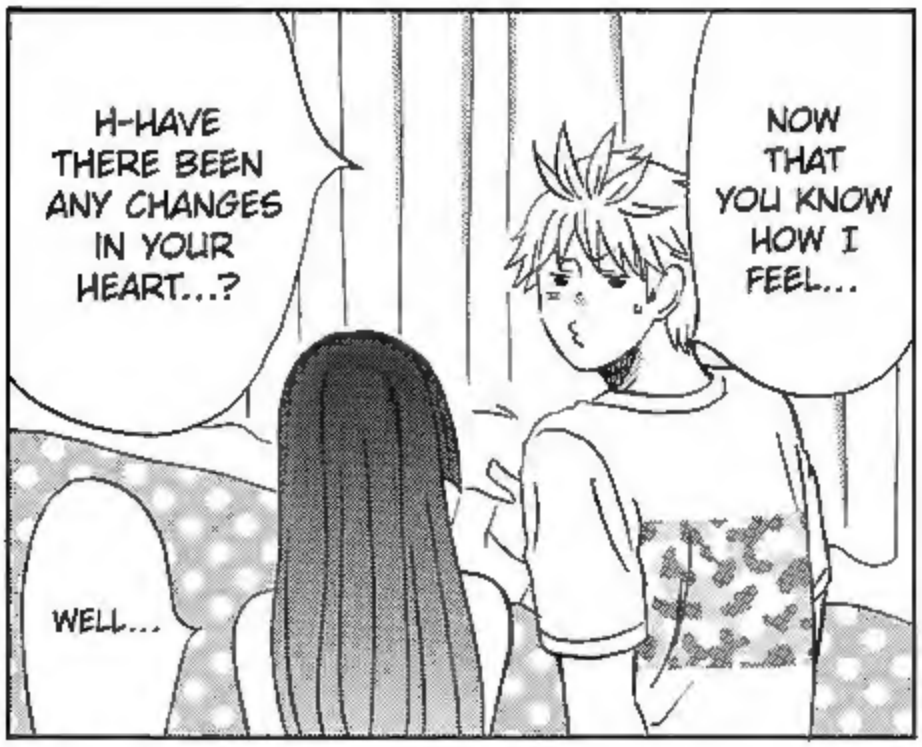
ISHIMURA-SAN?

HM?

Shake

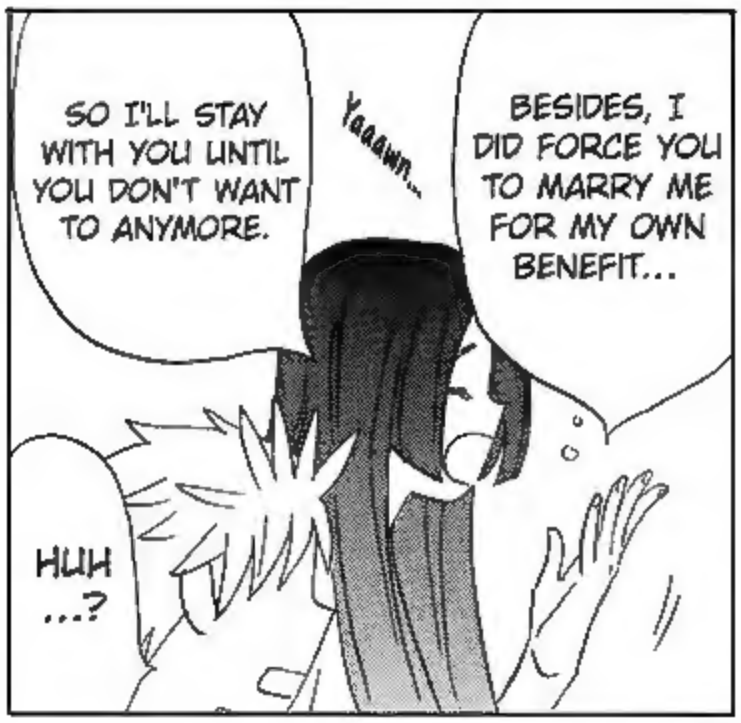
Shake

UM... ISHIMURA-SAN, ISN'T THIS THE POINT AT WHICH YOU'D REALIZE I DO HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU?


H-HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CHANGES IN YOUR HEART...?
NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL...
WELL...

Y-YES. THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
GETUP
SO YOU WANNA DISCUSS THOSE FEELINGS WITH ME?

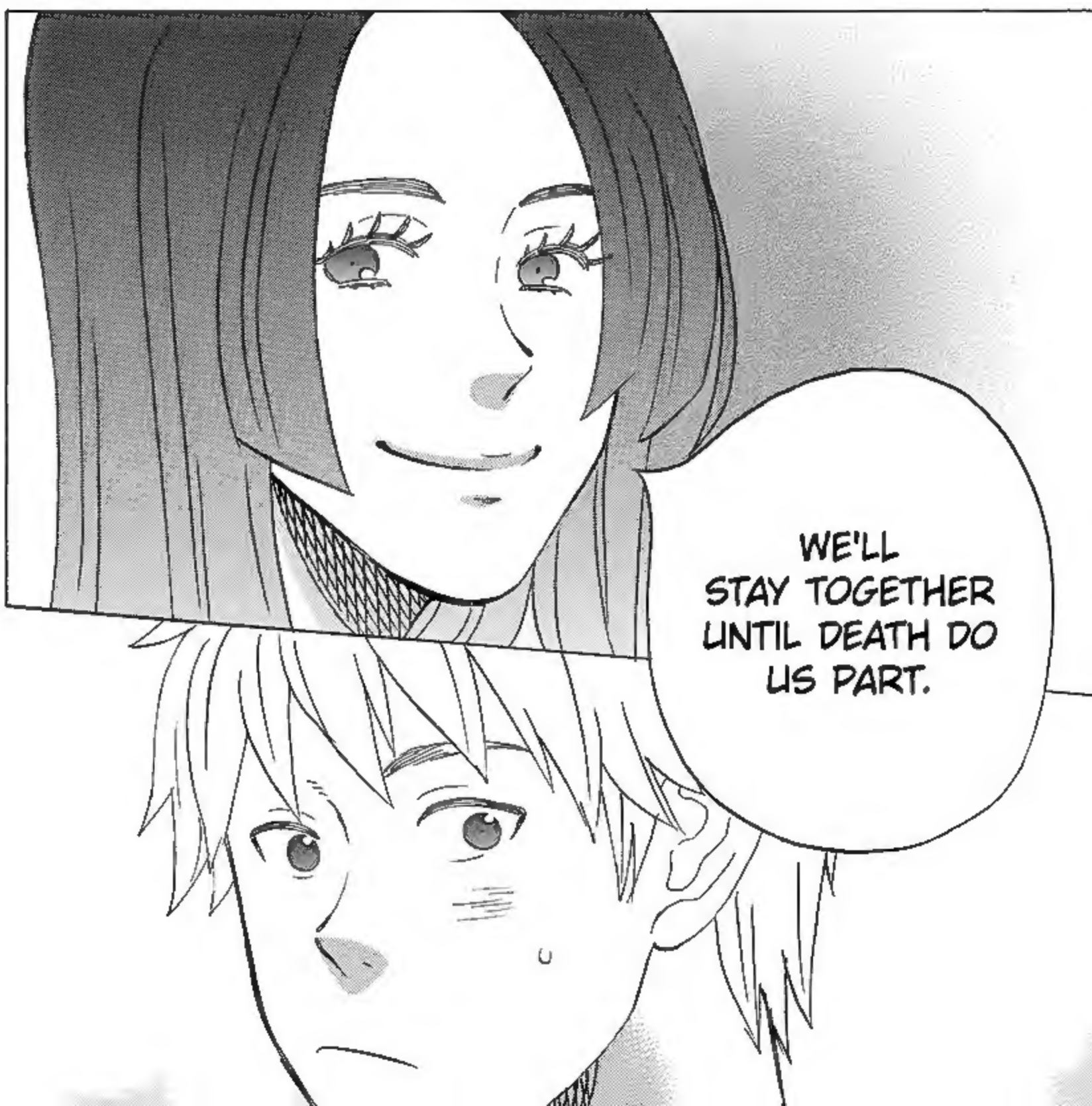
YOU'RE THE PERSON I MARRIED, KIRISHIMA-KUN.
IF IT WAS A COWORKER OR SOMETHING...
I'D STILL THINK IT'D BE A HASSLE IF THEY ASKED ME OUT ON A DATE OR CONFESSED TO ME. BUT...


SO I'LL STAY WITH YOU UNTIL YOU DON'T WANT TO ANYMORE.
Yaaawn...
BESIDES, I DID FORCE YOU TO MARRY ME FOR MY OWN BENEFIT...
HUH ...?

WHAAAT ...?
SINCE WE'VE ALREADY REACHED THAT LAST STAGE, I DON'T THINK ANY DIFFERENTLY.

...RIGHT. IN THAT CASE...
HA HA HA!
You shouldn't carelessly say stuff like that...
W-WHAT IF I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU FOREVER?

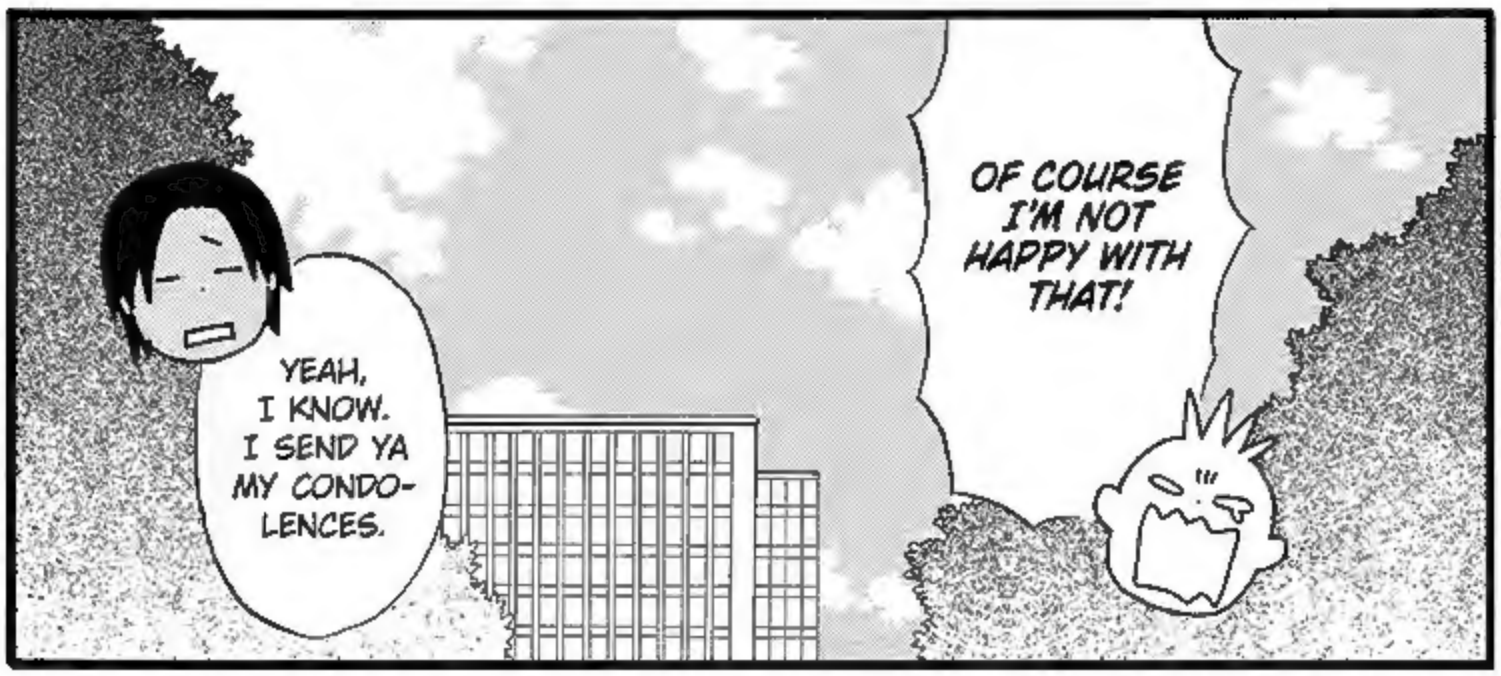
...


WE'LL STAY TOGETHER UNTIL DEATH DO US PART.

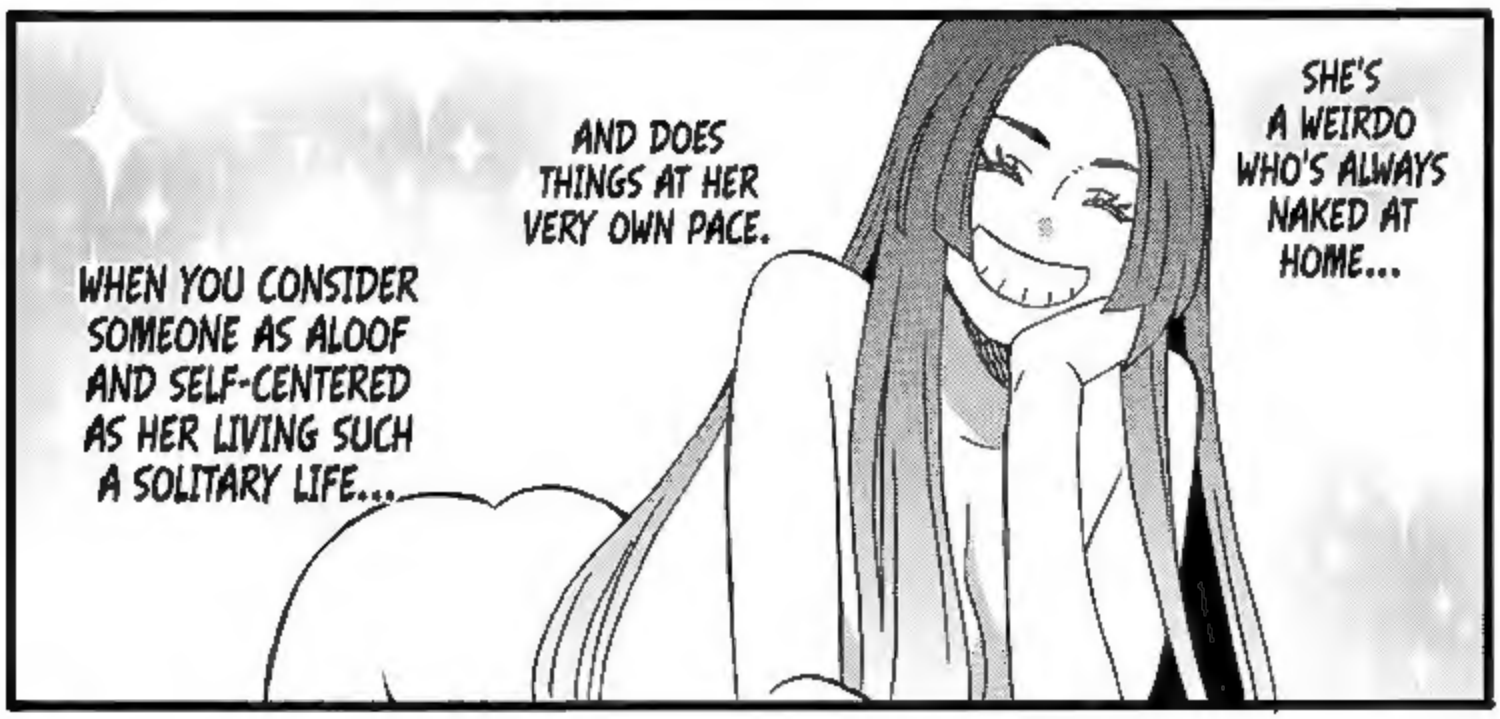
OHH...
WELL, WE HAVEN'T DONE IT YET. NOT EVEN ONCE...

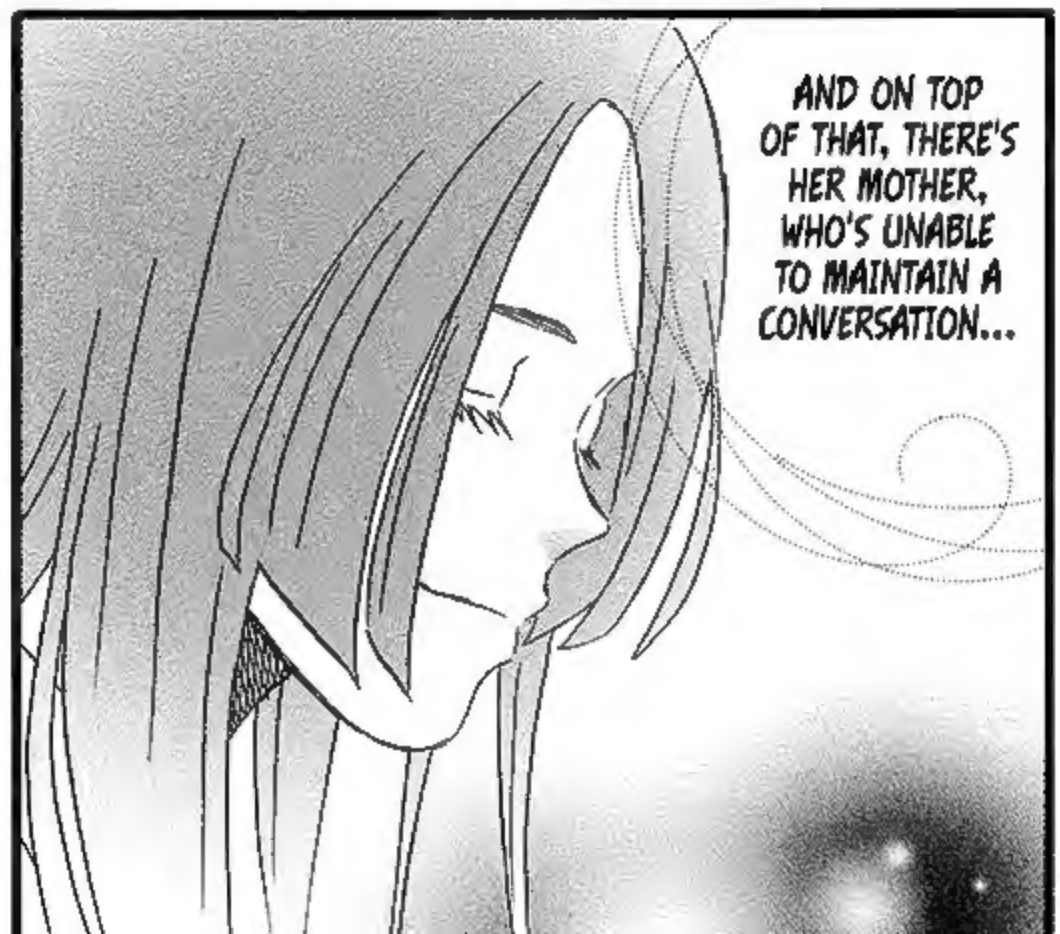
NAH, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE AT ALL...
LOVE MUST'VE BLOSSOMED DEEP WITHIN AI-CHAN'S HEART.
OHH... SOUNDS LIKE IT WENT PRETTY WELL.
WHY'S THAT?

URGHH ...
IF YOU'RE HAPPY WITH THAT, THEN THERE AIN'T A PROBLEM!
IN OTHER WORDS, SHE'LL STAY WITH YA UNTIL THE BITTER END, BUT SHE'LL NEVER DO IT WITH YA...


YEAH, I KNOW. I SEND YA MY CONDO-LENCES.
OF COURSE I'M NOT HAPPY WITH THAT!

I DO HAVE MY WORRIES ABOUT THAT ASPECT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, BUT...

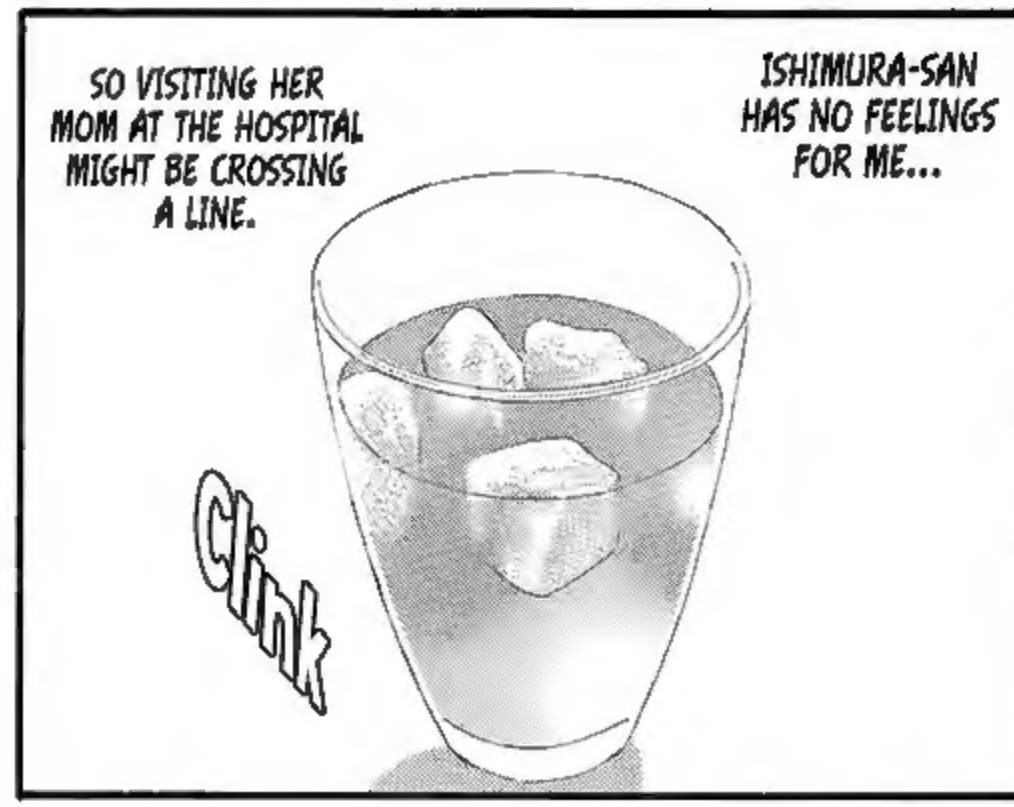




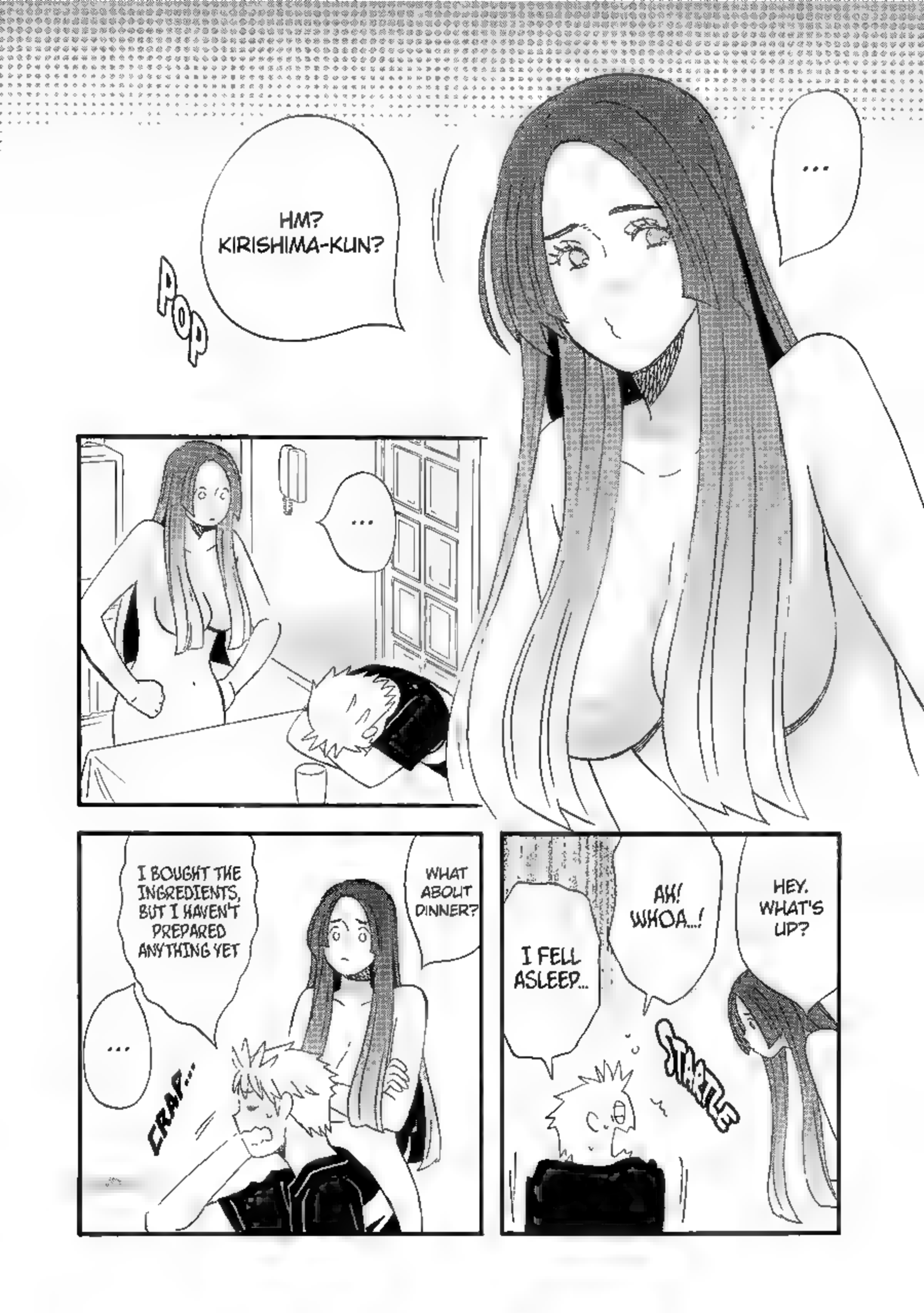
WE'RE MARRIED, BUT NOT TRULY A COUPLE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
"SUPPORT" ...
SHIROU-KUN, YOU MUST DO YOUR BEST TO SUPPORT HER.

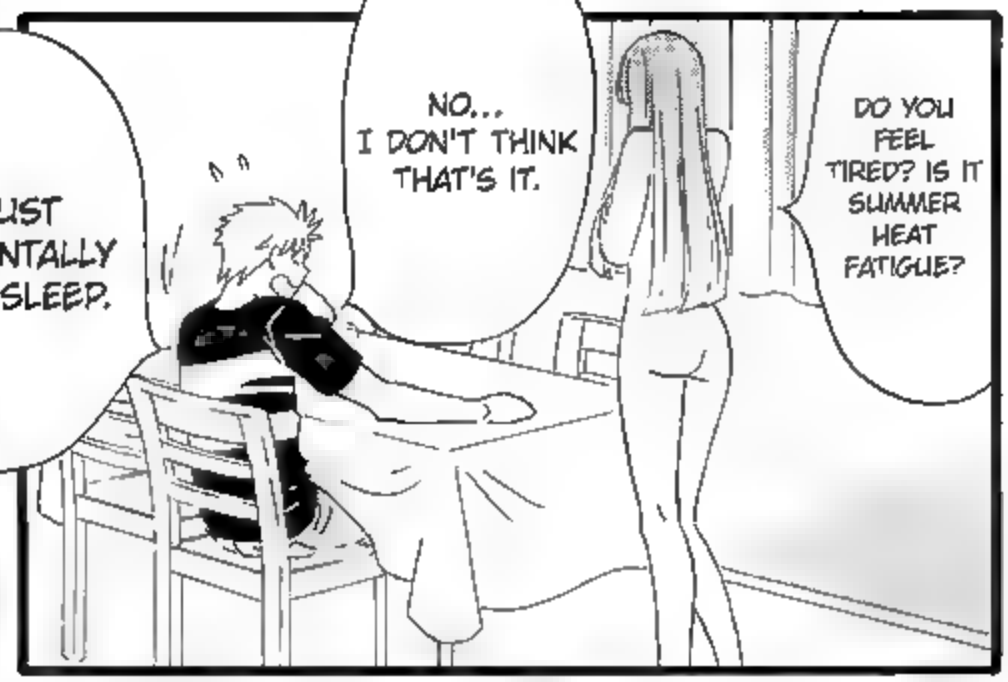
SIIIGH... WHAT A MESS!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

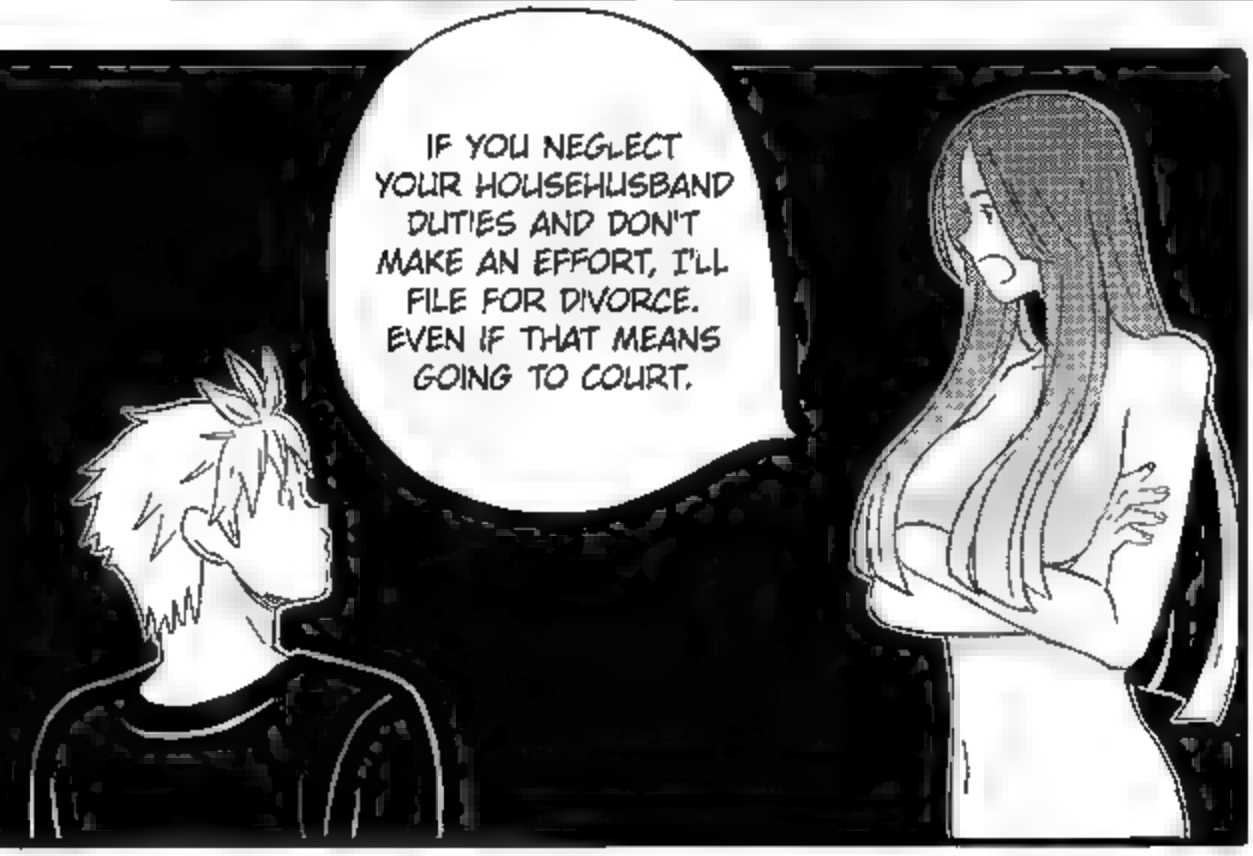

SO VISITING HER MOM AT THE HOSPITAL MIGHT BE CROSSING A LINE.
ISHIMURA-SAN HAS NO FEELINGS FOR ME...
Clink

I'M HOOOME!

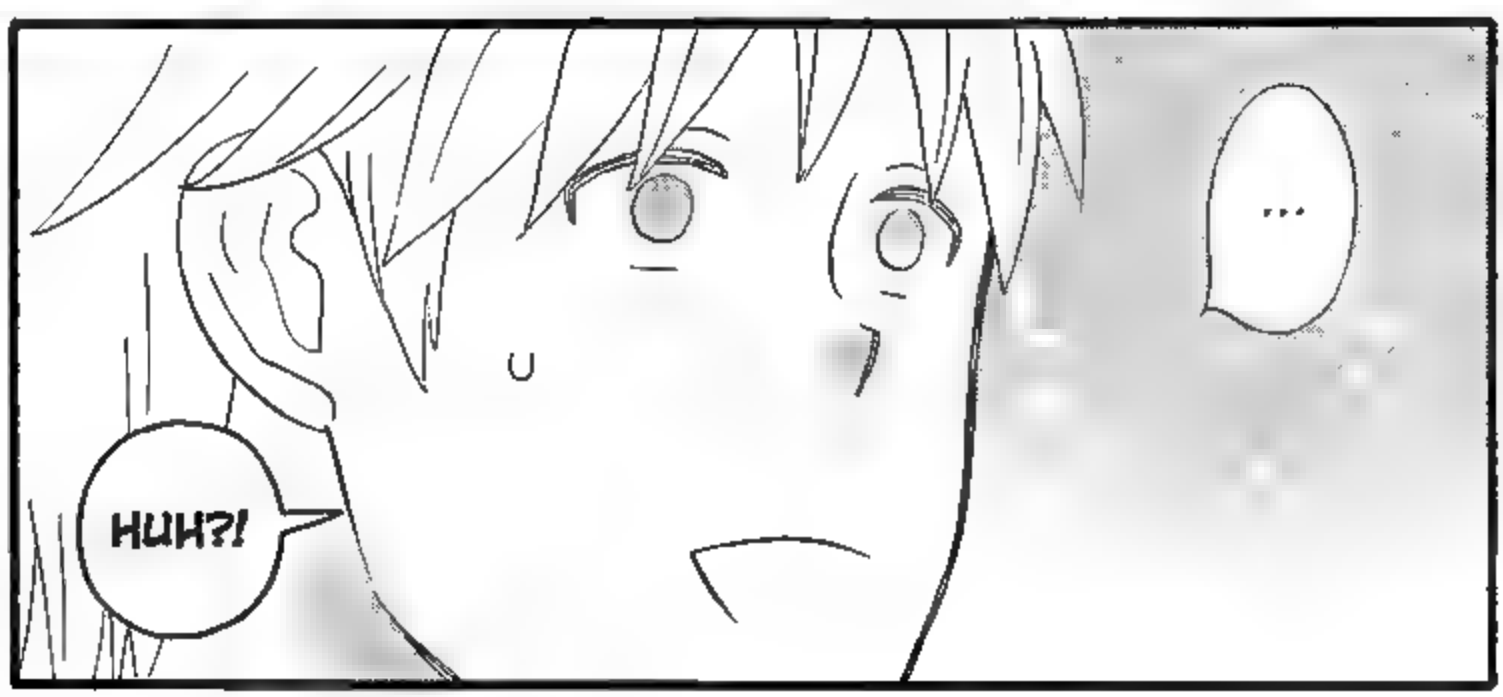

HM? KIRISHIMA-KUN?
POP
...
...
I BOUGHT THE INGREDIENTS, BUT I HAVEN'T PREPARED ANYTHING YET
WHAT ABOUT DINNER?
...
CRAP...
I FELL ASLEEP...
AH! WHOA...!
HEY. WHAT'S UP?
STARTLE

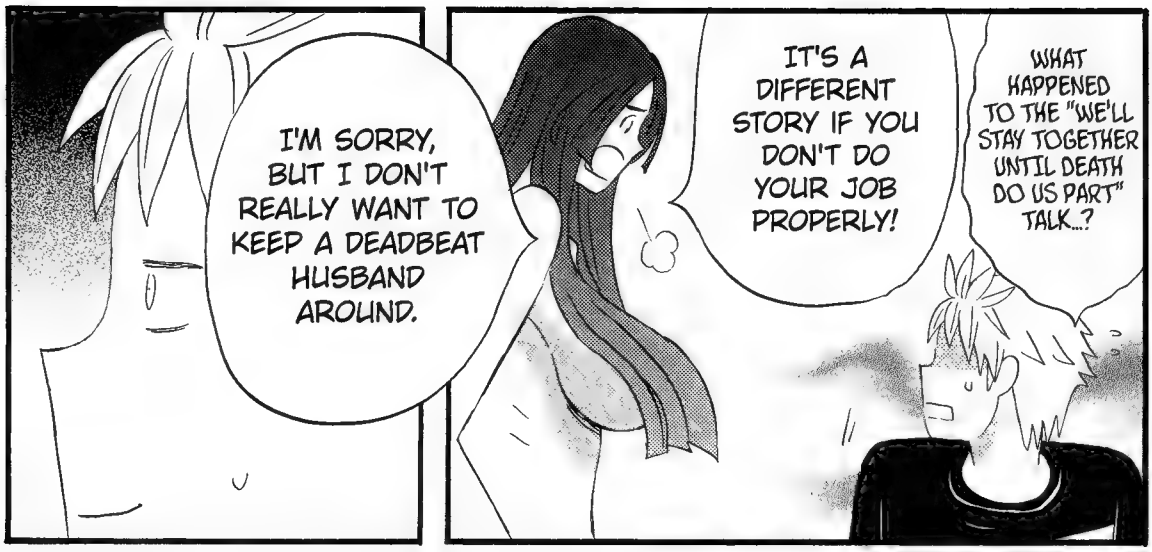
...
I JUST ACCIDENTALLY FELL ASLEEP.

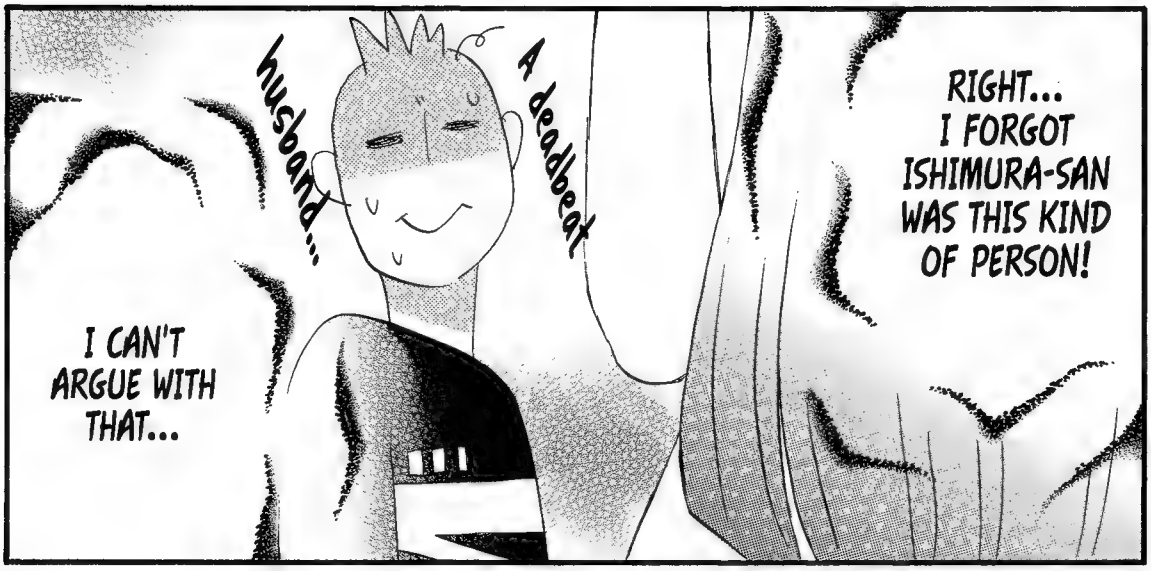

NO... I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT.
DO YOU FEEL TIRED? IS IT SUMMER HEAT FATIGUE?


IF YOU NEGLECT YOUR HOUSEHUSBAND DUTIES AND DON'T MAKE AN EFFORT, I'LL FILE FOR DIVORCE. EVEN IF THAT MEANS GOING TO COURT.

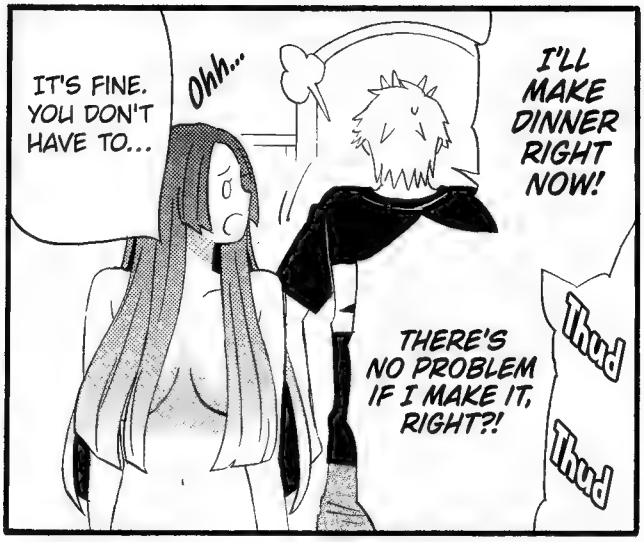
...JUST SO YOU KNOW...


...
HUH?!


I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KEEP A DEADBEAT HUSBAND AROUND.
IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU DON'T DO YOUR JOB PROPERLY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "WE'LL STAY TOGETHER UNTIL DEATH DO US PART" TALK...?


husband...
A deadbeat
RIGHT... I FORGOT ISHIMURA-SAN WAS THIS KIND OF PERSON!
I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT...

YOU'RE STILL AN AMATEUR AT COOKING, SO IT TAKES YOU A LONG TIME.
I'll make something quick.
I'LL DO IT.
I'll make something quick.


IT'S FINE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
Ohh...
I'LL MAKE DINNER RIGHT NOW!
THERE'S NO PROBLEM IF I MAKE IT, RIGHT?!
Thud
Thud

UM... REALLY? BUT...

I'M NOT EXACTLY GREAT AT IT, BUT SURE, I CAN COOK.

I TOLD YOU, I'M A FAN OF INDOOR ACTIVITIES.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO COOK, ISHIMURA-SAN?

Wow, you're a natural at pulling off the "naked apron" look!

AT THE TIME, I HAD MY HANDS FULL WITH MY MOTHER.

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO YOUR HOUSE, IT WAS A COMPLETE MESS, FULL OF EMPTY CONVENIENCE STORE LUNCH BOXES...

OHH...

...UM.

...

Tock Tock

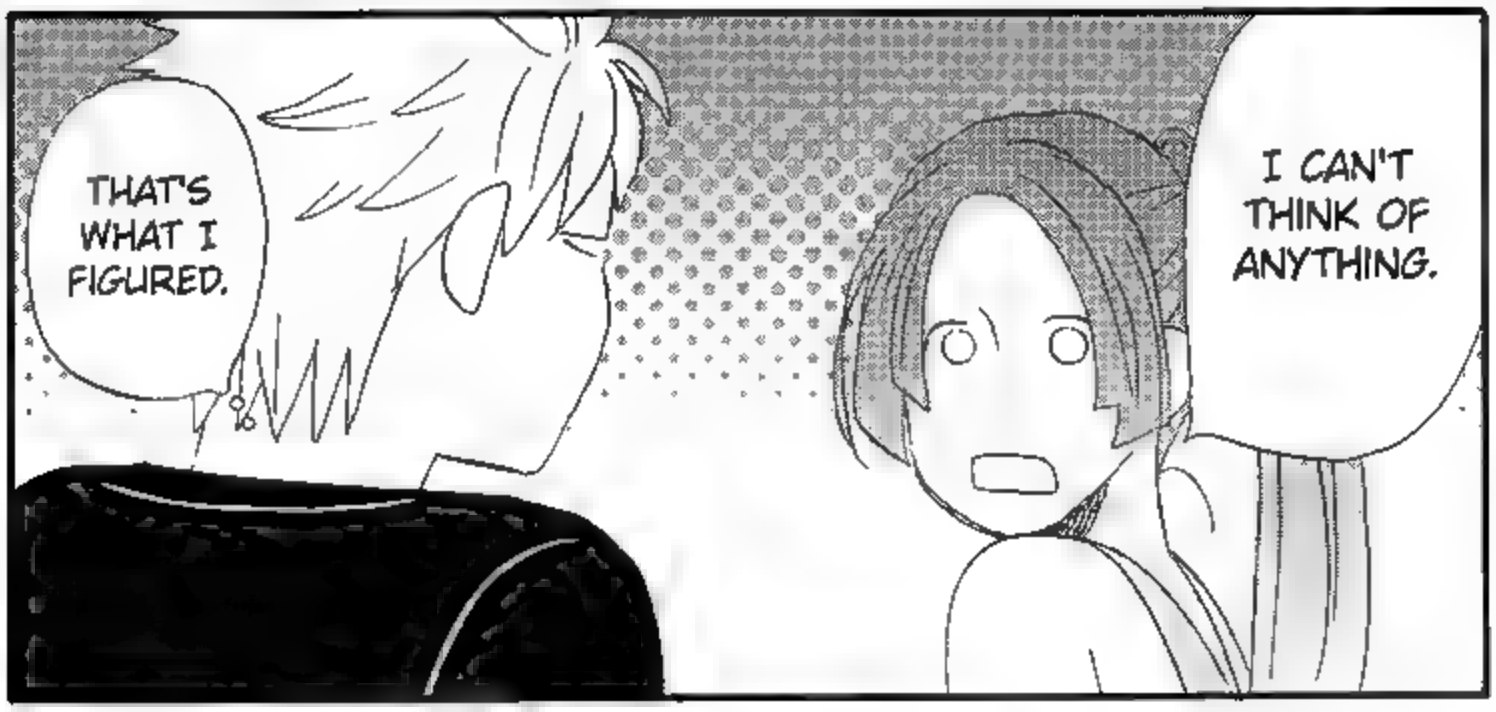
Tock

AND WELL, CLEANING ISN'T MY FORTE.

Ha ha ha!

...
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, OKAY...?

HM?
ABOUT YOUR MOTHER, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.


THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.

...THAT'S KINDA COLD, ISN'T IT?
LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY MOTHER.
MANAGING THE HOUSEHOLD AND PERFORMING YOUR HOUSEHUS-BAND DUTIES IS ENOUGH.

IT'S JUST AS ISHIMURA-SAN SAYS. SHE DOESN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED WITH OTHER PEOPLE, BUT THEN AGAIN...

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HER.

BUT LIKE...IT SOMEHOW...

IT ALSO FEELS LIKE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR OTHERS.

FEELS LONELY...

THAT'S FINE AS A HOUSEHUSBAND, BUT NOT AS YOUR HUSBAND!

NO, NO, NO! I INSIST!

I MEAN, I HAVEN'T EVEN MET YOUR MOTHER YET!

...

HUH? W-WELL, YEAH... I SUPPOSE SO?

...BY "MEETING", DO YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO HER AS MY HUSBAND?

EVEN IF SHE'S CONSCIOUS, SHE CAN'T SPEAK PROPERLY.

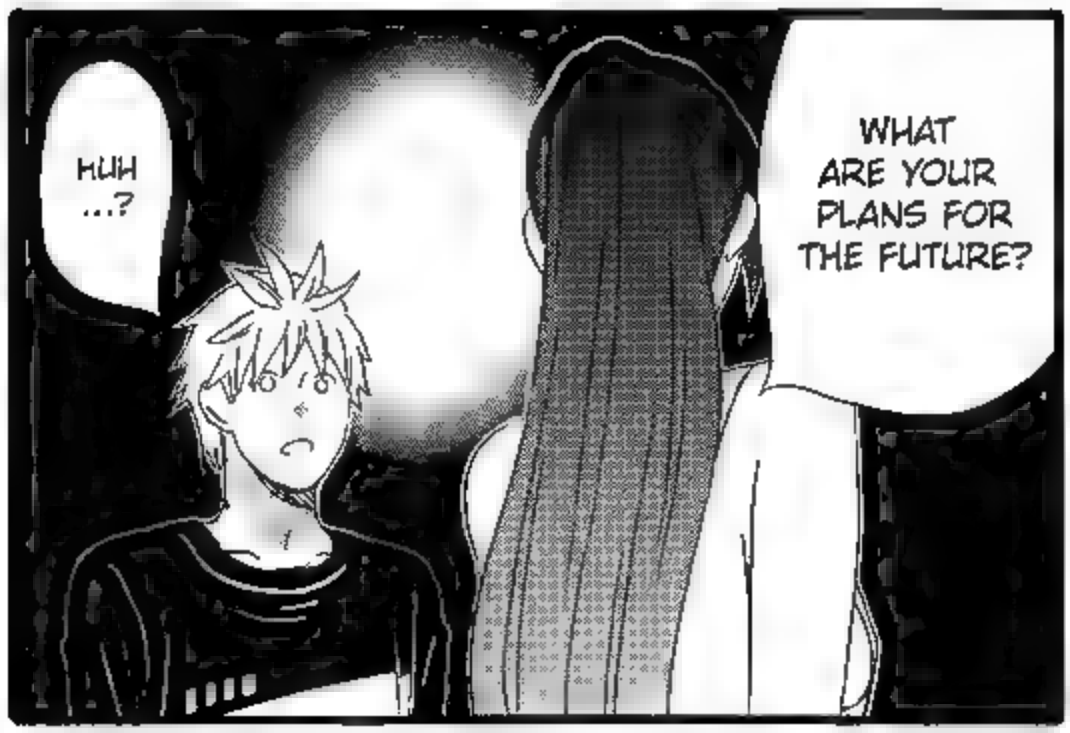
MY MOTHER'S PARALYZED ON ONE SIDE OF HER BODY, AND THAT AFFECTS HER BRAIN'S LANGUAGE CENTER.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO MEET HER AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF AS MY HUSBAND IN THAT SITUATION?

...I STILL INTEND TO DO IT.

I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU, BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME ALREADY.
IF YOU DEVELOP SOME WEIRD ATTACHMENT, IT'LL BE HARDER TO BREAK UP.
Tock
Tock

IT'S JUST A PASSING FANCY. YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO INVOLVED.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT MADE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH ME, BUT I'M SURE THOSE FEELINGS WILL FADE SOON ENOUGH.


HUH ...?
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

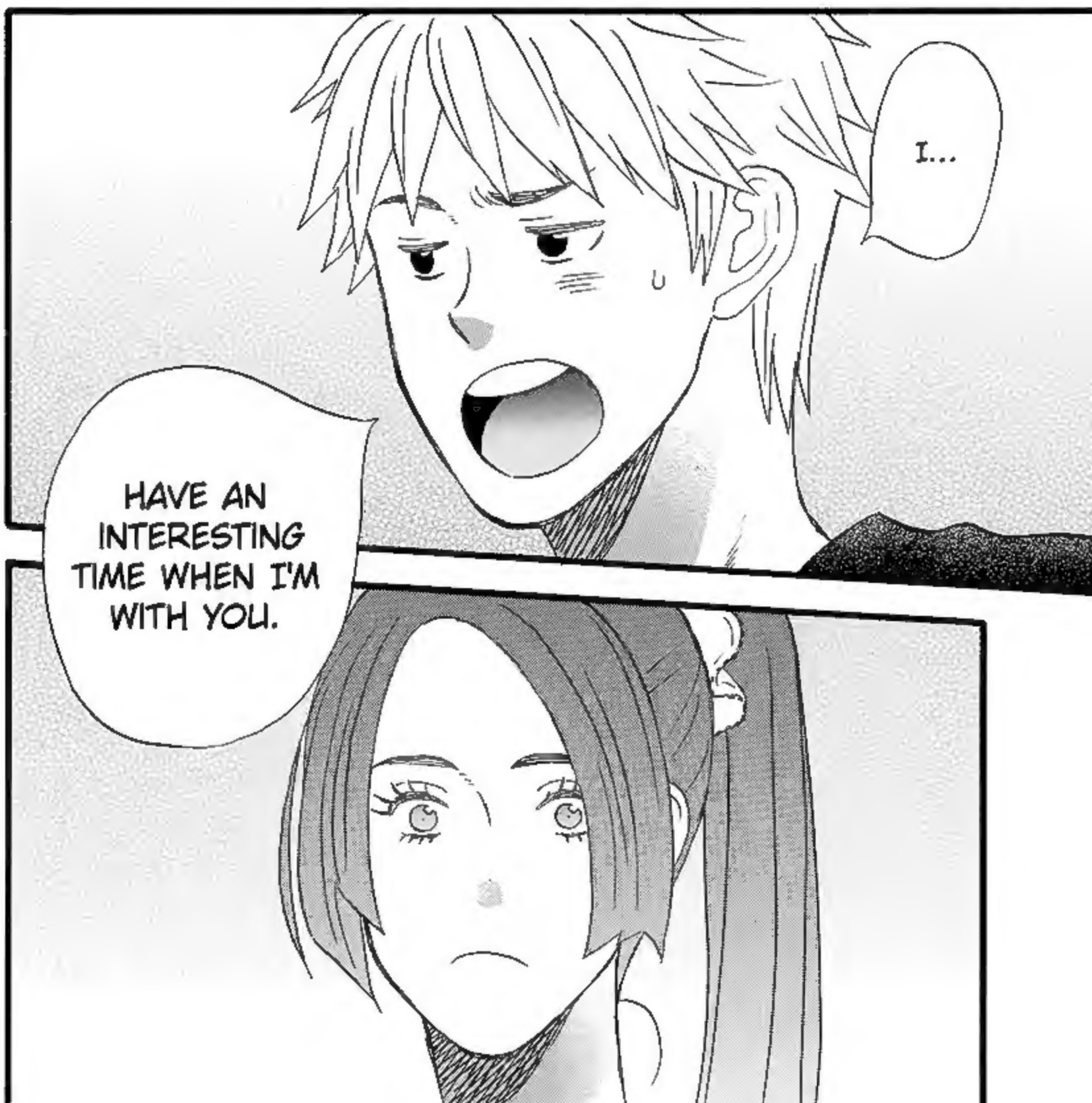
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY, SO I'LL ASK YOU STRAIGHT UP.
Click

DID THINGS CHANGE, NOW THAT YOU LIKE ME?

UNTIL NOW, YOU WERE ANGRY AT ME FOR TRICKING YOU INTO MARRYING ME...
AND YOU REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE DIVORCE AS REVENGE.

OHH? SO WHAT'S THE NEW REASON?
THE REASON FOR REFUSING THE DIVORCE HAS CHANGED.
RIGHT NOW...

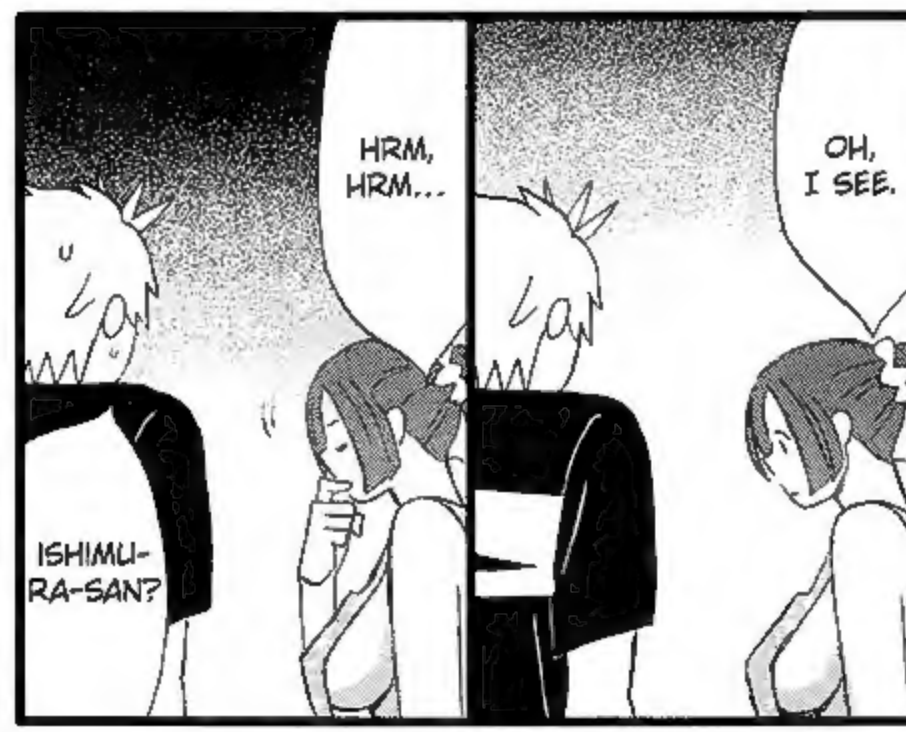
UHH... WELL...


I...
HAVE AN INTERESTING TIME WHEN I'M WITH YOU.

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER MEET SOMEONE ELSE AS UNUSUAL AS YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT.

...
NOT BECAUSE YOU LIKE ME, BUT BECAUSE IT'S INTER-ESTING?
?

YUP. THAT'S ACTUALLY A CONVINCING REASON.
OKAY ...


HRM, HRM...
ISHIMU-RA-SAN?
OH, I SEE.

YOU KNOW, I ALSO LIKE GUYS WHO ARE INTERESTING.
I STILL THINK YOUR TASTE IN WOMEN IS POOR, BUT...

MAYBE THAT MAKES YOU INTERESTING!

PAT

I'M GOING TO SUE THE HOSPITAL WHERE MY MOTHER WAS PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED.

I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME!